

**STATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE COMMISSION
DRAFT MINUTES**

1300 Hours, October 14, 2008
Arbor Lied Lodge & Conference Center
Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410

Chairman Dick Christensen called the meeting of the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) to order at 1305 hours, this date.

I. APPOINTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Danon, Small Business
Keith Deiml, Education
John Falgione, State Fire Marshal
Keith Hansen, Community Health
Tim Hofbauer, Emergency Management
Dana Miller, SERC Vice Chair Fire Fighters
Jim Schmailzl, Department of Roads
Richard Christensen, SERC Vice Chair, Chemical Industry
Joe Francis, Department of Environmental Quality
Don Eisenhower, Agribusiness
Thomas Parker, Nebraska State Patrol
Mark Graf, City Government
Al Berndt, for MG Kadavy, US Military - NEMA

APPOINTEES ABSENT:

Sue Semerena, Department of Health & Human Services, R&L
Allen Grell, County Government
Larry Johnson, Trucking
Mark Reimers, Transportation
Gary Gandara, Labor

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tonya Ngotel, NEMA
Mark Lohnes, Department of Environmental Quality
Jessica Sherwood, Department of Roads
Henry Tamasi, NEMA
Dan Hiller, NEMA
Alisia LaMay, NEMA
Terri Blunk, USEPA Region 7
Ted Argintean, Douglas County LEPC

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

After the welcome and introductions, Chairman Christensen brought the SERC's attention to the agenda for the October 14th meeting. He asked if anyone had any changes or additions to the agenda. With no changes noted, a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Keith Hansen made motion to accept the agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Francis. There was a voice vote and the results were unanimous.

III. APPROVAL OF THE 8 July 08 MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Christensen asked if there were any additions or corrections to the 08 July 08 meeting minutes. Tonya Ngotel noted that the LEPC appointments had not been included in the July meeting minutes and would be corrected. Chairman Christensen asked for any other corrections or changes. With no changes noted, Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to accept the minutes with the noted changes. The motion was made by Jim Schmailzl and seconded by Steve Danon. There was a voice vote and the results were unanimous.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Amendment of the current SERC by-laws

Tonya Ngotel, Coordinator of the SERC, suggested the Commission review the by-laws that were established when NECPRA was developed in 1996. The current by-laws do not include provisions for absent members, standing committees or the approval of LEPC members. Discussion pursued on avenues to review and amend current by-laws. A temporary committee consisting of Keith Deiml, Dick Christensen and Mark Lohnes was developed with the task of working with Tonya to suggest possible changes. Jim Schmailzl suggested that a copy of the proposed changes be sent to all the Commission members prior to the January 2009 SERC meeting, when the proposed changes will be discussed.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. LEPC Membership Application Approvals (Vote):

The next order of business was to approve the membership applications presented before the SERC.

After careful review, was noted that several of the LEPC membership applications (primarily from Otoe County) were not correctly completed. As improperly completed applications has been a recurring issue, it was determined that the SERC would postpone the approval of these applications until such a time when they have been corrected and re-submitted.

B. SERC Membership Committee i. Status report:

There is currently one position open, with an emphasis on environmental issues, due to the resignation of Mr. Virgil. As of January 2009 there will be an opening for a county elected official with the retirement of Allen Grell. Please submit names of interested parties to Tonya Ngotel or Peg King in the office of the Governor.

C. Public Outreach Committee

i. LEPC Conference:

- Regional - Save the Date Cards have been sent out for the Regional LEPC conference to be held in Kansas City, August 6-9, 2009 at the Sheraton Sports Complex. SERC members were asked to plan on attending the conference.
- State – Nebraska hosted a LEPC conference in Hastings in September 2008, with the assistance of the several LEPCs. Three individual awards were given for outstanding contributions; one industry was

awarded and one outstanding LEPC was recognized. Several SERC members were present at the awards banquet and throughout the conference.

ii. State Fair Booth

The SERC participated in the Search for Safety Project at the 2008 Nebraska State Fair. There were approx 1,000 Stop Leave it Alone CD's that were given out to young kids. The project wasn't as successful as prior years due to the construction of an overpass on the State Fair Grounds and the lack of attendance at the State Fair. Discussion pursued on a possible venue next year, with the possibility of the fair moving to Grand Island. Public outreach committee will discuss future options for educational outreach.

D. HMEP Funding Update

There was discussion on the increase of HMEP funding coming from the USDOT, the SERC members were encouraged to talk with the LEPCs and encourage the use of the mini-grant. The majority of the funding that isn't being spent has been allocated to the LEPCs.

E. Other

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tonya spoke of the Chemical Facility Anti-terrorism Standard (CFATS) that was passed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) being in its second phase. Facilities meeting this standard were expected to complete a top screen on line which would determine at what level they fell under the CFATS. DHS developed an on-line training for personnel who would need to have access to this information, the Confidential Vulnerability Inventory (CVI) would allow individuals who have taken the test access to the CFATS information. Several of the SERC members have completed the on-line course and are considered CVI personnel. Tonya will keep the SERC up to date on this issue.

VII. REPORT FROM NEMA/FEMA

Al Berndt reported that Nebraska has seen three federal and two State disasters in 2008. In the past three years there have been a total of twelve disasters, an unprecedented high. NEMA continues to be involved with the upcoming Statewide exercise (TERREX) scheduled for October 21st, NEMA will also participate in an evaluated power plant drill along with several local exercises.

Homeland Security Funding has taken a cut this year with the baseline allotment remaining the same as the previous year. The USAI will no longer be recognized and will fall to the regions and will be required to apply for funding along with the other PET regions. The MOU Hazmat cities will continue to be funded through DHS monies assisting them in regional hazmat planning. This year's funding will have a planning focus, 25% of the funding must be spent on planning, therefore NEMA will seek assistance from the University Policy and Research Center to assist the locals in spending the planning funds.

There was no report from FEMA.

VIII. REPORT FROM NDEQ

Joe Francis reported that NDEQ supported the numerous State disasters with NDEQ staff at the EOC. NDEQ used the opportunities to train staff on the policies and procedures of the activation of the State EOC and the NDEQ coordination center. NDEQ staff also participated in training at the local level on lift stations, after NDEQ staff found that there were several requests for

assistance with lift stations during the disasters and several of the staff weren't aware of the function of a lift station. NDEQ, along with Platte County EMA, visited several lift stations in the Platte County area to learn more about the role of the stations.

A new Staff Assistant has been added to assist with the TIER II requirement; she will help Mark Lohnes, SARA Title III Coordinator, in sending out and tracking TIER II information. Mark reported EPA will be presenting a Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) workshop in Omaha in March of 2009. Specific information as far as locations will be shared with the SERC at the January '09 meeting.

IX. REPORT FROM EPA

Terri Blunk distributed a hand out for the EPA listing information to make sure everyone is aware of upcoming events. Beginning October 1, 2008 facilities will be able to update their RMP's electronically which is a huge step forward and make it easier for those who have computer access and those who don't will still be able to do it manually. Nebraska will host several workshops in the beginning months of 2009, with dates and locations presented at the January 2009 SERC meeting.

EPA conducted boom training in the central part of the State as a quarterly training for the Nebraska Hazardous Materials Association. The training was well attended and supported through the hazmat cities. EPA is developing a manual for bio-diesel; once it's in final version it will be distributed.

XII. PUBLIC FORUM / PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Christensen asked if there were any comments for the good of the cause; hearing none he called for a motion to adjourn.

XIII. NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Dana Miller and seconded by Keith Deiml. The next meeting will be January 6, 2009 at 1300 hours at NETV.